

**ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT
HABITAT PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE
HABITAT ENHANCEMENT AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PROPOSAL**

Game Branch / HPC Project Number:	12-104
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PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: Unit 3C, 4A and 4B Dirt Tank Maintenance 2013

Region and Game Management Unit: Region I - Units 3C, 4A and 4B

Local Habitat Partnership Committee (LHPC):

- Winslow and Show Low

Was the project presented to the LHPC?

YES[] NO[x] * but has been discussed.

Has this project been submitted in previous years? YES[] NO[x]

If Yes, was it funded? YES[] NO[] → **HPC Project #:**

Project Type: Clean Silted in Dirt Tanks

Brief Project Summary:

Many of the water sources in Units 3C, 4A and 4B include dirt tanks. On Forest Service land, many of these tanks have become silted in over the years and only provide water for a short duration. Typically when water is the most critical (May and June) these tank are dry. This problem has been identified through the Show Low and Winslow HPC's and is a concern throughout the Forest. This project will help address water issues, especially in May/June.

Big Game Wildlife Species to Benefit: 45% elk 25% deer 15% Pronghorn 15% turkey

Implementation Schedule (Month/Day/Year):

Project Start Date:
Calendar Year 2013

Project End Date:
Calendar Year 2013

Environmental Compliance:

NEPA Completed: YES[] No[] N/A[x]

Projected Completion Date: _____

State Historic Preservation Office - Archaeological Clearance:

YES[x] No[] N/A[]

Projected Completion Date: 16 dirt tanks in 3C were arc cleared in summer of 2012. FS submitted RAC grant to complete arc clearance on remaining 15 tanks in 4A and 4B – Will know if funding is approved Oct 2012

Arizona Game and Fish Department EA Checklist: N/A[x]

To be Completed by: _____

Projected Completion Date: _____

PROJECT FUNDING

Special Big Game License Tag Funds Requested:

\$31,000.00

Cost Share or Matching Funds:

\$ 20,770.00

Total Project Costs:

\$ 51,770.00

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

Applicant (please print):

Ken Clay

Address:

2878 E. White Mtn Blvd
Pinetop, AZ 85935

E-mail:

kclay@azgfd.gov

Telephone: 928-856-0816

Date: 8-20-2012

AGFD Contact and Phone No. (If applicant is not AGFD personnel):

Project has been coordinated with: Black Mesa Ranger District Ranger, Dee Hines and Wildlife Biologist, Dave Seery; Wildlife Manager Units 3A and 3C, Paul Greer

NEED STATEMENT – PROBLEM ANALYSIS:

The Forest Service land within Units 4A and 4B has always been challenged with perennial water for wildlife. Most of the natural perennial water occurs in the southern part of Unit 4A, in the bottom of the big canyons that drain off the Mogollon Rim. The central to northern part of these Units rely of man-made waters. In the early days of livestock and wildlife management, on the currently named Black Mesa Ranger District, water developments played a major role throughout the Forest. Many water catchments were constructed but most of the water developments were in the form of dirt tank construction. Dirt tanks are cheap and easy to build but do require routine maintenance. With many of the livestock allotments on the Black Mesa R.D. in an inactive status there has been nobody to do the maintenance. As a result, many of these tanks are completely silted in and hold little to no water. The end result is poor water and wildlife distribution throughout the Forest especially during the critical months of May and June.

After the Rodeo-Chediski Fire in 2002, many of the dirt tanks in and adjacent to the burn area received large deposits of sedimentation. Ten years after the fire, some of these tanks still have not been cleaned and as a result go dry sooner than normal. The Black Mesa Ranger District has completed archaeological surveys on 16 dirt tanks in Unit 3C that have been identified by the livestock permittee as needing to be cleaned. The livestock permittee has already completed cleaning of 4 dirt tanks in the Unit 3C project area in 2012.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

Improve permanent water distribution for wildlife. This will be accomplished in the following manner:

- Black Mesa RD has applied for a RAC grant to fund Arc Clearance and necessary NEPA clearances for water developments and dirt tank maintenance on the District. The District will know if funding is approved for this work by October 2012. If funds are available, all clearances will be complete within a year.
- Hire a contractor or several contractors to clean silt from Dirt Tanks on the Forest
- These dirt tanks vary in size so the number of tanks to be cleaned will depend on exactly what tanks are identified.
- Many tanks throughout the forest will be identified prior to Spring 2013. In the Spring of 2013 the tanks on this listed that are dry will be prioritized. These tanks will be cleaned until the funds are depleted.
- The Goal is to get 30 tanks cleaned – 15 tanks in Units 4A/B and 16 tanks in Unit 3C.
- 16 tanks in Unit 3C have been cleared by the Forest Service and are ready to be cleaned. The project could be partially funded to clean tanks in Unit 3C if the RAC grant through. See attached map.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND STRATEGIES:

Remove many years of silt build-up from as many dirt tanks as the funds will pay for.

PROJECT LOCATION:

See attach maps. Dirt tank maintenance needs occur with the circled areas on the map below.

LAND OWNERSHIP AT PROJECT SITE (Please state specifically if PRIVATE PROPERTY and provide landowner's name):

IF PRIVATE PROPERTY, IS THERE A STEWARDSHIP or LANDOWNER AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE LANDOWNER AND THE DEPARTMENT?
YES[] NO[]

HABITAT DESCRIPTION:

Mixed Conifer to Pinyon/Juniper habitat with large grassland openings.

ITEMIZED USE OF FUNDS:

Special Big Game License Tag Funds

	Total Cost	\$51770.00
SBG Funds	Funds Requested	\$31,000.00
Adminstrative Work AZGFD and USFS	Cost Share	\$20,770.00

Cost Share or Matching Funds

	Man/Hours	Quantity	Cost	Total
Clean Average size tank	12 hrs/ tank	31	@ 1000/tank	\$31,000.00
Archaeological Surveys	N/A	31	@670/tank	\$20,770.00

LIST COOPERATORS AND DESCRIBE POTENTIAL PARTICIPATION:

- US Forest Service Black Mesa RD

PROJECT MONITORING PLAN:

Ken Clay and Paul Greer AZ Game & Fish will take photos before and after the project. These tanks should fill in a during summer monsoon storms.

PROJECT MAINTENANCE:

NA

Figure 1: Map of Focus Areas for Dirt Tank Cleanings

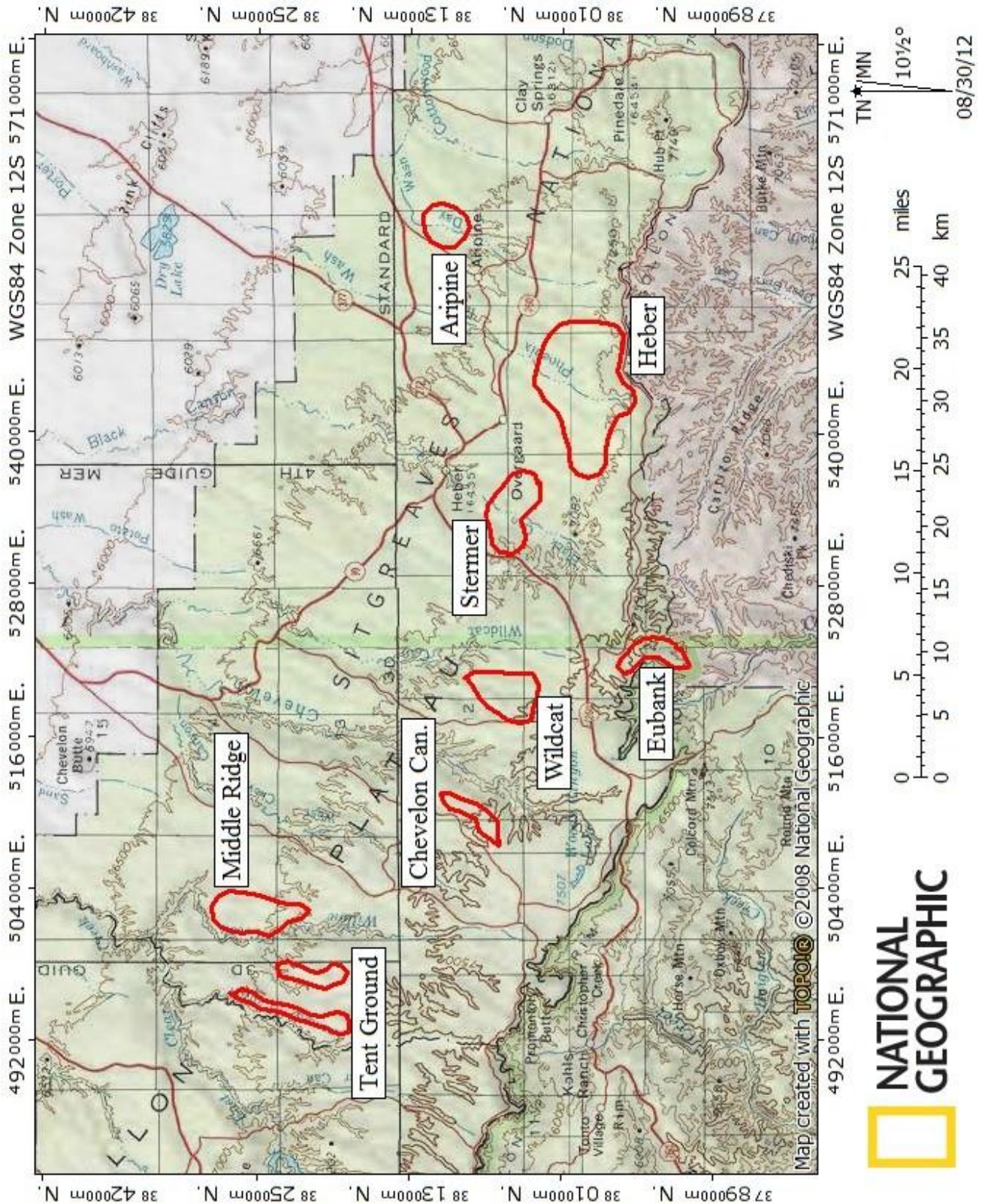
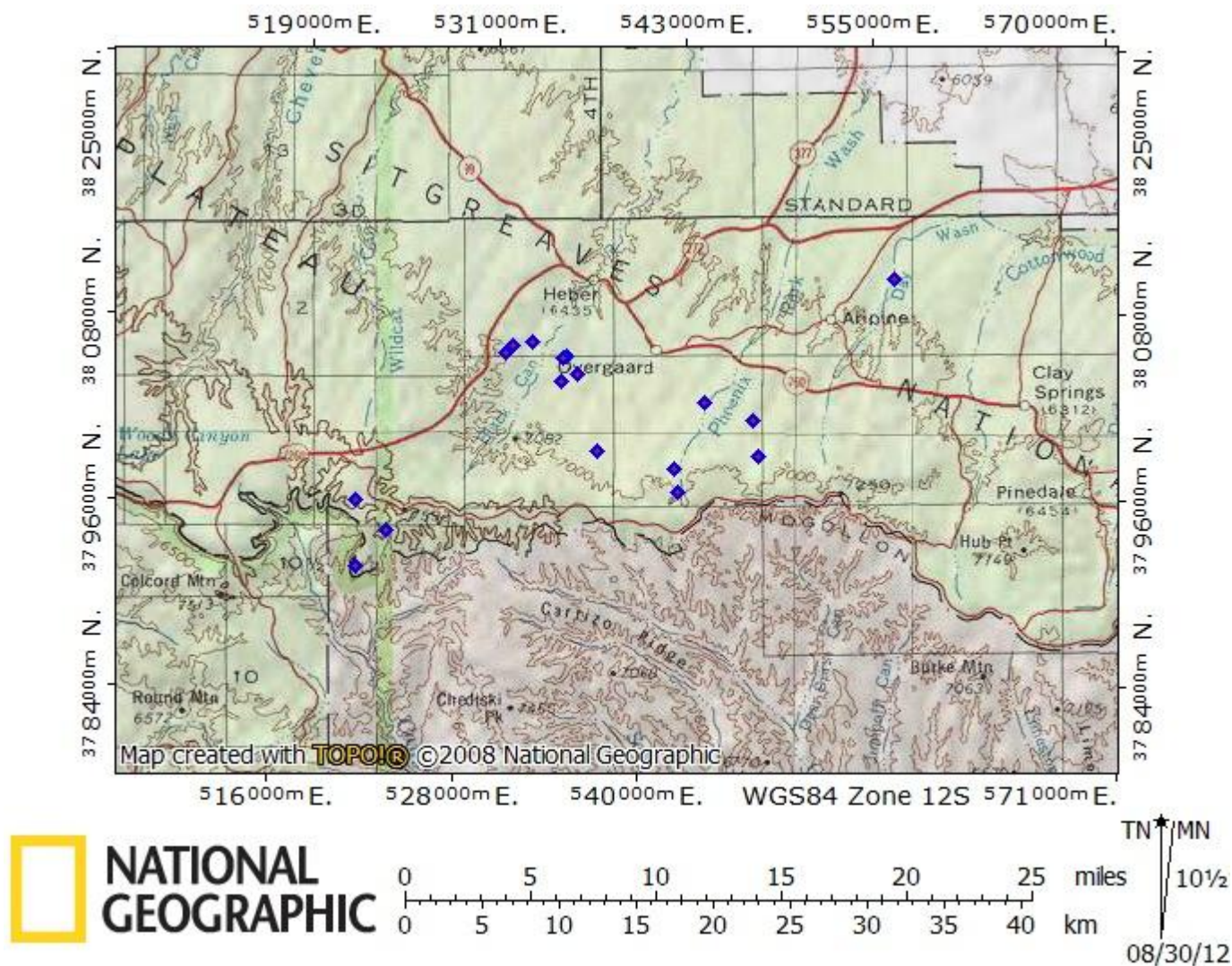


Figure 2: Location of Dirt Tank Cleanings in Unit 3C



PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT TO BE FILED BY: K.Clay/P Greer